

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Gentlemen, scholars, sleep-deprived zombies walk MBA campus

Is it possible to be both
Big Red and in bed?

By Ryan Hill
Features Editor

Getting a good night's sleep has become a superhuman feat for the average MBA student. Sufficient z's have become the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow: the road to the treasure is usually hidden, and oftentimes the prize is whisked away by evasive, red-haired halflings normally disguised as computer games, ridiculous homework loads, and girls whose parents invest in the unlimited monthly

texting plans that are the lifeblood of most viable cellular service companies.

Unfortunately, sleep deprivation has many negative repercussions for gentlemen, scholars and athletes. Grades begin to fall like heavy eyelids halfway through a history class. Performance on the field and in the gym deteriorates like the successive paragraphs of a theme composed at 3:00am. Today's sharply-groomed scholars become tomorrow's disheveled slackers. AMC called; the producers of *The Walking Dead* are hiring extras.

The root of all these problems is the disturbance of your body's natural clock, scientifically known as the circadian cycle. This pattern determines your ideal sleep

>> SLEEP, P8



Weston Bell snoozes in English class despite the impending wrath of Dr. Tarkington.

Photo courtesy of Parrish Preston.



While many were catching up on much-needed sleep (see above article), John Mellow was busy creating his masterpiece for all of West End to enjoy.

Ice sculpture adorns MBA campus

Snow artist discusses
Postmodernist implications

By McKay Proctor
Staff Writer

The Bell Ringer caught up with the John Mellow, the young man responsible for the igloo that appeared on the front lawn on January 10th, to discuss his work.

Bell Ringer: Mr. Mellow, to start, many people question your medium. What do you say to people who wonder why you work in such an impermanent art form?

John Mellow: I personally love snow as a medium for a few reasons. Its natural purity and the rawness of materials it encourages are chief among them. More than any other material, snow can be taken

unrefined from the ground and put into a work. Secondly, snow bends to vision like clay but can be sculpted almost like marble, opening up a world of possibilities.

BR: But what about how fast your art disappears? Some would say that's time you wasted.

JM: There are a lot of people that feel that way. I understand where they're coming from, but the impermanence is part of the mystique for me. I build; nature takes the snow back. When, then, the next snow comes, it's a blank canvas. Even though my work may not last in a traditional sense, the work is never really done.

BR: What do you call your latest work?

JM: Igloo II. Simple...and to the point.

BR: I really must ask you what inspires you. What are you trying to say when

you build what you do, where you do, and how you do?

JM: That's a short question that deserves a long answer. My works stand for a lot of things. The image of an igloo sandwiched between Harding Pike and the beehive that is MBA says a lot about individuals in the postmodern era. The igloo stands alone between two hubs of cosmopolitan sensibilities, yet the igloo represents an ancient way of building. The igloo predates all things around it in a way. The people of the far north pioneered the craft thousands of years before the Pantheon. Here we have a people who recognized the structural power of the dome before anyone in the West had even thought about setting a keystone. Its lines are not stylish but functional. To the passing drivers and students, it stands out

>> IGLOO, P7

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THE BELL RINGER

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"King Society" is a misnomer

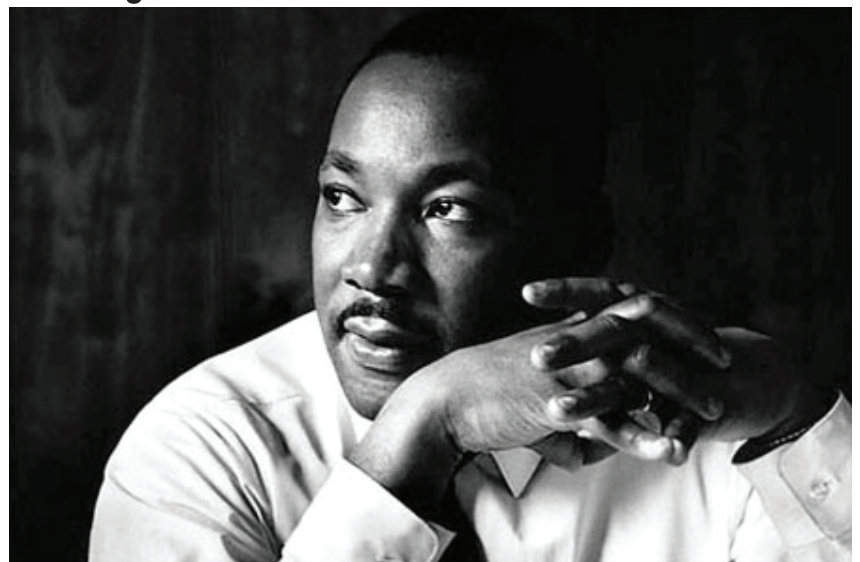
By **Jesse Suh**
Staff Editorialist

When we think of Martin Luther King Jr. now, we think about his role in the Civil Rights movement. We think about his "I Have a Dream" speech and how he became the face of social justice in the black community. Some things that have not been remembered so easily are King's controversial criticism of the Vietnam War and his role in galvanizing labor groups.

It seems like MBA has found a different way to remember Dr. King. Needless to say, Dr. King was not associated in any major way with acts of service aimed solely at helping the community.

Through the King Society, MBA seeks to recognize students who have "compassion, character, and community service," yet it seems as if the majority of the requirement for induction is centered on having a large number of MBA-sponsored service hours, with a minimal requirement of twenty-five.

For an organization that aims to honor Dr. King's legacy, the requirement only seems to reflect Dr. King's work in an abstract way. Logically, it's easy to conclude that the King Society is a misnomer. As a King Society member told me, "The name is just that, a name. It can stand for whatever someone wants it to stand for. The real importance is what the society stands for, serving the community instead of oneself." This member's



While having an assembly dedicated to Dr. King's work is worthwhile, MBA's King Society seems only to reflect his work in an abstract way.

dismissal of the name's importance as it relates to the Society's primary goal is understandable, but, in this case, I wonder if the name can be misleading for Dr. King's lifework and what the society stands for.

Public perception of the King Society seems to be that the organization solely exists on a ceremonial level to recognize individuals for community service. When I asked a King Society member whether the society functioned on a non-ceremonial level, he said, "Not that I know of." To a certain extent, the society would fit its namesake much better if it held some other functions besides the assembly ceremony we all attend once a year. If the society is really only ceremonial, it raises an important question: couldn't honoring someone's selflessness be considered somewhat backward? While the Society's charge involves

committing one's life to Dr. King's ideals of non-violence and universal love, the society may be doing itself a disservice by conveying Dr. King's ideals while judging entrance primarily on community service.

Ultimately, the King Society's ideals may be most important, though. Regardless of what the society really is, having an assembly dedicated to King's ideals close to Martin Luther King Day is good for the whole school. For people to commit their lives to stopping bigotry and to representing Dr. King's work is inspiring for us all.

The members of the Society seem to hold everything in perspective. As one member put it, "I think some people may begin to do service for the recognition, but most people who continue with the service will agree that it has deeply impacted them in some way and that the recognition is not what really matters."

Verizon iPhone is coming... what should you do?

By **Eddie Seay**
Staff IT Whiz

Being the IT-oriented guy that I am, I guess it would only seem fitting for me to write an article stating my opinion on this three-year-old buzzphrase that has finally come to fruition in the past month.

For years, consumers have been chattering about the Verizon iPhone, speculating that it would come out next month, or the next month, or the next month, ever since the launch of the original iPhone that changed the game of cell phones forever.

Now, however, since the Verizon iPhone finally exists, it is the perfect time to discuss the ups and downs. When the first iPhone came out exclusively on AT&T back in 2007, it changed the game of computing forever, offering the best mobile experiences in music, web browsing, and apps that can do



The iPhone changed the game for mobile phones. The iPhone 4 changed it again, according to Apple. Does the advent of the iPhone on Verizon change everything again...again?

just about anything one could imagine. Since then, it has been pretty much an industry leader, but with little competition until recently.

The question now for AT&T users and current iPhone lovers is: "Is it worth the switch to Verizon?" and the more important question for current Verizon users is: "Should this be my next phone?"

AT&T, as many know already, offers massive coverage nationwide and has a very fast 3G network that is configured in a way that users can talk and browse the Internet at the same time. They use a service type that is the same format as many other cellular companies around the world, making an AT&T iPhone more world-capable than a Verizon one.

On the other hand, AT&T's service is infamous for its call-drops, lack of coverage, and sub-par performance. Due to the life-binding contracts and massive early-termination fees, the

>> IPHONE, P11



Exclusive senior insight into Egyptian protests

By John Wyse
Staff Senior

"Never thought it would... Never thought I'd be the... Never thought I'd be... Never thought I'd be here when it happened... Never thought it could happen to me." **Bird Worthington** was a little choked up, to say the least, when I asked him what it felt like to be just a few months from graduation. "I feel like the leader of a pack of Canadian geese, guiding the rest of my flying V toward our final destination. Except I don't actually have wings," said senior **Walter "Payton" Macey**.

Speaking of Canada, **Mason Kirkpatrick** is a big fan. Plus, everyone knows who discovered the great land we know today as Canada... **Leif Eriksen**. In honor of his bravery **Doug McWilliams** has dedicated his winter to becoming a true Viking Master!

When I asked **Drew Lonergan** how his winter break was, he searched deep within his soul and told me this: "When a storm starts turning, miles keep burning, when you look and see how far you have gone, you see you're still just learning." (finger snaps) He also added that he would like **Mr. Tillman** to send out an email because he lost a few couch cushions.

MBA hockey continues their playoff run each Wednesday for the next 3 weeks. Come support **Max, Nick, Connor, Chris, Gary, Ethan, Al, and Jack**.

Ultimate seniors are coming off a big win over USN heading into a tournament in Chattanooga at the end of February. The basketball and wrestling teams are hopefully heating up for the end of their seasons, led by **Chase Owen, Jojo Guerre, and Mark Simpson**.

Andrei "Kobayashi" Lucaci recently ate two tacos, each in one bite, for lunch. Nearby, **Collin Brannon** was perfecting his nacho bacon ranch colosseum of cholesterol, and at the next table over **Clay Garrett** was spotted picking his nose. **Davis Thrailkill** was disappointed that he

never got a chance to eat Indian food over the break; **Philip Daniely**, however, tried it for the first time and spent the next few days impersonating **Elvis'** death.

Since homework matters little to us seniors nowadays, gaming activity has increased. **Christian Alford** can't stop "owning kidz" in Rome: Total War. **Carter Callaway** is bringing back Roller Coaster Tycoon, while **Cody Fisher** has mastered Hot Shots Golf. In a recent survey, 57 seniors tried out the iPads in the library, but 100% of students left once they realized none of them had Angry Birds.

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, many of us have our eyes on that special someone. **Chad Hoback** wasn't so lucky. He told me he got a new girl over the break but decided to break things off because that would be easier than introducing her to his mom. **D-Mac**, couch, nuff said. **Warren Smith** has been really nervous about this one girl that he thinks might like him, but he's not sure, but he's just gonna go for it and hope for the best, cuz, I mean, it's senior year, right? No regrets.

Clay Adams isn't the best secret-keeper. **Coach O'Neal** had to tell **Mason Foote** five times last Tuesday to put his shirt back on at baseball practice. Mason, who could've sworn those moms looked like **Mackinnon**, declined to comment.

Andrew Powell has decided to name his first-born son Cam Newton Powell. **Hayes McCord** and **Scott Gould** are getting braces again. **Will Norton** has started collecting fountain pens. **Ben Charpentier** taught me how to dougie.

A few meaningful stats: number of pencils behind **Granbery's** ear last week- 13, number of days **Rob MacArthur** has been at school this semester- 4, sightings of **Frampton**- 26, number of times **Hiller Miggins** has mentioned Buckfest III - 68 (or 70, I can't remember), number of **Chases** who can't look **Mr. Deutsch** in the face- 3, number of days until spring break- too many.

Happy February, arguably the worst month of the year. LIFT IT UP!



Above: Doug's been a senior since 6th grade. LET'S GO MAKE SOME TOAST!!

Below: PDuff, Hiller, Spelman, and Rupe (whose lips are sealed) are just chillin'



Winter chills freshmen

By Wells Hamilton
Staff Freshman

The end-of-winter-break-denial theorists added a few new members when the freshman class returned to school this spring, especially during genetics.

Meanwhile, **Wes Duke** still believes he has blond hair.

Sports are slowing down as wrestling and basketball are coming to an end. This is unfortunate because **Charlie Hawkins** was just getting his form going. **Ben Barton** still won't retire his varsity wrestling jacket.

Rifery is definitely doing something, but I don't really know what. However, freshmen are an integral part of the hockey team with breakout stars **Justin Yoon**, who can really play hockey pucks well, as well as **Nick Boney**, who is just a complete stud. We can also agree that jv lacrosse is working hard as **Chris Burrus** continually tries hard to beat **Chippy Evans** in sprints. Maybe next time, Chris.

Course registration has thrown the freshman because would-be A.P. History takers are suddenly learning they actu-

ally have to go and talk to their old history teachers. **Pat Sanders** looks forward to the chance to reconnect with his old teacher Mr. McMurray. Course registration also raises the question, why would anyone take Latin III? **Samuel Bamigboye** believes that learning the revered dead language will open doors for him.

Cocky debaters **Arhmand Jhala** and **Miles Curry** feel they're going to whip all of us in the freshman speech contest, but as we all know, **Jordan Whittaker** is favored to win. Luckily, the topics allow for some hardcore bashing of the current president by outspoken young Republicans. (You know who you are, **Brandon Carpenter**.) It might get bloody. Several favorites, though, are not part of debate, which means they might actually say something funny. Sorry, McKay, Mr. Jackson wouldn't have been pleased.

Recycling has stepped out as **Drew Benson** has set out a mandatory roll call. **Mr. Gillespie** has already assessed demerits for 'chronic failure to fulfill recycling duties.' **Murphy Smiley** reacted, "I had no idea my failure was so chronic." **Alec McDowell** commented "Awoohhahh."



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Junior class has many great moments on Hill

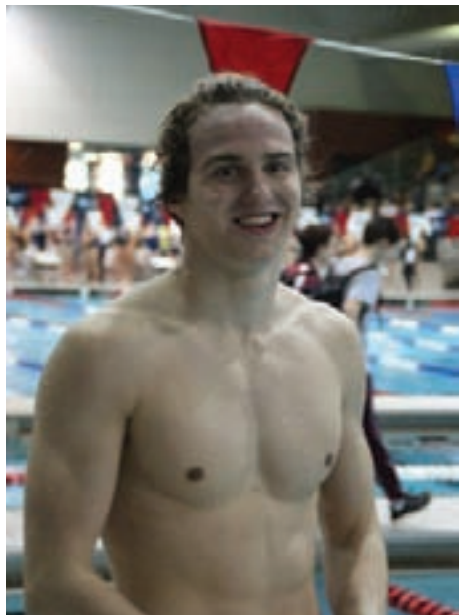
By Scott Dalton
Staff Junior

As the junior class willingly decides to enter the second semester of junior year (also known as Misery), we stop and take this time to look back and cherish some of our greatest moments of the year, often noting that everything is always the same. Let's work on some change for the next article, boys.

Thomas Forcum recently released his autobiography in which he seeks to find the quantification for all potential solar energy to be converted into molecular kinetic energy when someone uses an eraser. We know he will find it soon. **Ross Martin** says James' attempt will be "nuthin' but nylon, baby!"--whatever that means. And, yes, **David Howard** did indeed invent nylon.

Matt "Handy Mandy" Anderson personally asked me to be in this article. For the last time, I seriously don't want to hear your questions or comments because I could seriously care less. In other news, **Coach Daniel Peters** hit a power-up level of over 9000, thus making him the next in line to succeed the throne of the nearly departed Michael Peters for the greatest runner of all time. **David Arteaga**, **Myles Anderson**, and **Austin Doeblor's** "pantalones" are "estan" nowhere to be found.

Chris Meluch made a joke about how bad France's army is, I was just wondering if you had heard it? **Tim Bulso** continues to follow me around campus and know extremely embarrassing facts



Optical Illusion: While some may think this is at a swim meet, Adam Cornett rarely comes to school with a shirt on.

about my childhood. **DeCoursey Beach** is actually trying now in school, unlike **Joe Scherrer** who has never tried in school a day in his life. **Palmer Campbell** actually told Dr. Carro his nickname was "Warrior," and for that **Palmer "Warrior" Campbell** gets a medal of honor for not being a warrior of any kind, except in talking like an illiterate white trash retiree who operates a trailer park.

The **Bellets** don't take kindly to your type around here.

No one is quite sure why **Kelly Haselton** insists on wearing John Travolta's



Warren Lipscomb goes hard in the paint when it comes to Ice Cream.

leather gloves to school every day. When asked, Kelly muttered something that even a hearing aid couldn't pick up. **James Kay** has continued his pursuit to "catch them all", and by that I mean every flu epidemic that has ever reached the continent of North America. **Mitchell Mondays** anyone?

Ask **Henry Beveridge** about the 99-cent paper he bought at Office Depot

the other day...it's garbage. I would like to give a shout out to **Warren Lipscomb** and **Willard Logan** for continuing to make the rest of us look bad by swooning the ladies with your skills on musical instruments. If "P" could can it for a few minutes, we might be able to hear them clearer (just kidding, Warrior).

Daniel Mace had surgery, so when you see him, don't let him forget that he has crutches. He knows his place. **Alex Hagar's** birthday is every day for the rest of the year, so just go ahead and let him know that. Recently, **Baker Swain** made a fake gun and shot it at **Joseph Robinson**. **Joseph** killed **Baker**...literally.

Well, folks, that's pretty much it. **Rett Hooper** and **Will Peffen** continue to rock the world with their stunning dance moves. **John Morphis** and **Logan Standard** continue to be bros for the 3rd issue this year. **Paul Brazil** has not been confirmed yet to have landed in England. **Gray Jones** is a banana, **Jack Beckner** holds field goals, **Clay Sullivan** finally slapped some Rogaine on his head, **Noah** is still trying to locate the longitude and latitude of his jaws, and **Casey Ortale** continues to remind me of Toad from Mario Kart every day.

Stay classy, Juniors, and remember: duct tape can fix most problems, just don't push it.



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Finally, the first members of the Class of 2012 to talk to females!



Lo Bro says, "Pain don't hurt none!"

All photos on this page are courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman.

Whaddup, sophs

By McLean Hudson
Staff News Writer

A couple of weeks into the first quarter, and the sophomore class is buzzing with some very exciting news.

Most of that, though, would be edited out anyway so I'll just throw around the usual stuff. **Ryan Potter** is average on Xbox live and spent New Years' in Maryland. **John Powell** went to Glendale for the national championship, and **Will McFadden** talked to Donald Duck in his own Donald Duck voice.

Kevin Wang has some really exciting stuff going on in his life right now, but he didn't want it all published so everyone should go up to him individually and ask him about it. **Nathan Fouts** transcended with **Jack Benton**, who had a fantastic time at David Lipscomb's Winter Formal. **Andy Seay** is looking forward to tennis season when he, **Andrew Karpos**, and **Lucas Littlejohn** look to lead varsity back to a state title. **James Higgins** teamed up with **Broseidon**, and all he does is Lax. **Michael Piana** is awesome.

Sam Waitt scored his first points in church ball. **Trip Adams** enjoys a good peanut butter sandwich every now and then, **Cade Hooper** picked the Blue Waffles to go all the way, and **Jack Kinloch** is very attracted to **Louis Rieke**. **Lucas Fortune** has been disappointed with the recent lack of snow days.

In butterfly-related news, all butterflies are from Asia, **Jack Bond** is a social butterfly, beloved by all, and **William Yang** is just a butterfly. In other William Yang news, he got a spray tan and skipped three weeks of swim practice so it wouldn't wash off, and he poured water into our drawer at our lab station in chemistry because he was so excited to do the homework.

Jack Rhodes is single and ready to mingle, as is **Taylor Groom**. **Jane Winsett** is **Jack Emerson**'s best friend, and **Mar-**

cus Riley is on a man-hunt, or so says **Henry Lynch**. **Tony Birdsong** is living the life, **Ryan Flack** ate popcorn, and **Chris Duffey** broke six in the forty. **Clint** has been working

on his punting technique, while **John Wheeler** has been getting kicked out of the weight room. **Davidson White** loves chemistry, and his uncle is the PepsiMax guy in their new commercials about the Soda Draft.

J. Carlton Smith is really good friends with **Jackson Flora**, **Furman Haynes** says **Adam Bowman** got a Facebook and has been chatting with Fergie again, and **Robby Mills** was added by one **Brad Gioia** on Facebook two weeks ago. **Wesley Nealy** misses Mrs. Qian, and **Lucas Littlejohn** desires to be adopted by **Haywood Moxley**. **Hayden Deakins** is the 29th swimmer.

Mark Lowe's dog rolled in poop, presumably sometime before he caught the last train headed west. **Andrew Einstman** discovered the wonder of facetime, and **Robert Papel** was subjugated by means of marker. Then **Paps** was appointed 'cupmaster' by **Mr. Tate**, but he wasn't supposed to tell anyone because that would be bad. "It's really funny," he said, "but I can't tell you why." **Mitchell Flautt** has a new philosophy, and **Jake Macey** met a lovely gal by the name of **Casey Fitzpatrick**.

Jody Gorham, well... whapush (whipping motion)! **Bo Griswold** says, "uh-beduhba." **Mattison Asher** went to USN's homecoming and KFC, **Chris Habberman** is clueless, water has a memory, and **Alan Liang** is excited for the state swim meet.



Science Olympiad team hopes, plans to bring back state trophy

Left: Connor, Andrew, and Carter sport their hardware after claiming the state title in Picture This. In response to their dominance, the Science Olympiad organizers removed the event from the competition to make it more fair for all.

By Jake Macey
Staff Writer

Led by experienced seniors Connor Caldwell, Andrew Powell, and Carter Callaway (left) this year's Science Olympiad squad is hoping again to "own" the competition.

After being removed from the MTSU regional tournament because the team got first in over half the events, the team is hoping to succeed at the David Lipscomb regional tournament on February 19th (multiple spirit buses will be on route, Big Red Points, etc...).

The Big Red is hoping to win the regional competition and move on to the state competition in late March and, with luck and skill, Nationals in April.

According to the senior leaders, Oak Ridge is the Big Red's biggest competition for State because "they're all kids of professors and they glow in the dark."

The team is looking forward to this year's events like "beating up robots in sumobots," and astronomy. The administrators of Science Olympiad seem to choose the events according to how well MBA does in each one, according to senior Andrew Powell. Past events that have been removed include Fermi Questions, Wright Stuff, and Picture This. The seniors are not sure what this year's dynasty event will be, but they expect to be prepared.



Sophomore Mark Lowe and his lady-friend KWest. Photo by McLean Hudson

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Big Red explores new frontiers for second year

Language grant winners announced

By Sam Weien
Staff News Writer

The munificence of the Wilson family allows over twenty language students each year to travel to foreign countries to live in the culture and speak the native language.

This year, 26 students have been selected to receive these wonderful monetary prizes. The students are: from the Spanish classes, Preston Evans, Trent Holbrook, Matt Anderson, McLean Hudson, Harris Elledge, Barry Goldsmith, Jake Macey, Preston Palm, and Mark Lowe; from the Chinese classes, Hayden Deakins, John Mellow, Eric Walsh, Andrew Karpos, John Mark Bellet, and Rett Hooper; from the French classes, Wesley Nealy, Lucas Littlejohn, Aaron Ardisson, Henry Richardson, Noah Fardon, and Daniel Mace; from the German classes, Paul Brazil, John Bradshaw, and Chris Habermann; and from the Latin classes, Kevin Wang and William Reames.

To find out more about these prestigious subventions, I interviewed the language department chair Mr. Gaither.

Bell Ringer: How did the idea of these Wilson Grants first arise? How long have they been in existence?

Language Department: In the summer of 2009 the Wilson family and Mr. Gioia came with a plan both to support language studies and to give the students an advantageous addition for their college applications. This is now the second year the grants have been given.

BR: What are the requirements to apply for the Wilson Grant?

LD: To be eligible a student must have studied the language for at least two years,



The Wilson Grants provide funds for students to participate in programs around the world. *Graphic by Sam Weien.*

must have developed enough fluency with the language to interact effectively with the native speakers, must be a sophomore or junior, must commit to study the language for at least one more year, and the student must show a keen interest and passion for the language.

BR: How many students are selected to receive a grant?

LD: In 2010 twenty-five students received a grant. The Wilson family has allotted about \$160,000 per year to cover the cost of the trips. The number of grant recipients depends on how much each program costs. The Wilsons have been very generous this year in allowing us to run over budget a bit.

BR: What does the winner of the Language Grant do in his respective country?

LD: For each country there are different programs which provide different experiences. Generally, each program has a

stay with a host family, travel into various areas of the country, a formal language study element, and a particular focus. For instance, in France there is a focus on chocolate-making or a focus on photography, while in Central America there may be a focus on service projects.

BR: How long is the trip for each language grant winner?

LD: It varies from between 3 weeks to 5 weeks, and there is one program that is up to 8 weeks. The length of the stay depends on the program the student selects.

BR: Do the winners of the French and Spanish grants go to France and Spain, or just countries in the western hemisphere that speak their respective language?

LD: For Spanish students South and Central American countries are visited as well as Spain. French students travel to France or French-speaking areas of Swit-

zerland. German students go to Germany, Chinese students to China, and two Latin students will spend three weeks in Rome, with travel in Italy.

The Bell Ringer then interviewed a real, live Wilson Grant recipient from last year, Rob Edwards, to find out how the experience was from an actual recipient.

BR: Were you nervous at all when you first went abroad?

Rob Edwards: I was a little bit nervous just because my trip had a 12-day home-stay, and I had absolutely no idea what to expect from that experience. But for the most part, I was just excited to actually get to go experience everything I had been studying for the past two years.

BR: How was the experience in general?

RE: In general, it was some of the most fun I've ever had. I went all over France and a little bit of Germany, and I loved every minute of it. The home-stay ended up not being bad at all, and my group was really cool and we all had a great time.

BR: Do you feel that you have a better understanding of French language and culture because of this trip?

RE: I have a much better understanding of both the language and the culture. I probably learned the most about the culture, because there is nothing that even remotely compares to travelling to a foreign country and experiencing the culture first hand. But by having to listen to and speak French, I learned how to speak more fluently and also got a whole lot better at comprehending what people were saying.

For more student reflections on their trips, see the first three issues of *The Bell Ringer*.

MBA team ready for first History Bee

By John Mellow
Staff News Writer

This March Tennessee will reach the forefront of looking backwards into time. That's right! This year, for the first time ever, Tennessee will assume its role as a bastion of history by hosting a National History Bee and Bowl state tournament.

In this tournament, teams gather from around the state to test their historical knowledge in an attempt to be sent to the national competition.

From looking over the study guide, it seems that any historical topic is fair

game, as long as it has had some impact on western (and, most often, American) culture.

Participants must be prepared for anything culturally significant from the Magna Carta to Madonna, although the website does explicitly state that "even though 'Jersey Shore' is now in its second season, we're not going to be asking questions about its history."

No matter what the content, however, MBA will be ready. Considering that this competition is in its first year here, MBA has a prime opportunity to take advantage of teams new to the sport and roll right on into Washington D.C. for the national competition.

Dr. Bailey has meticulously put together a dream team of some sophomores, one junior, and zero seniors, but if you think you're interested, he *might* be able to squeeze you in.

With the MBA team leading the way, a new era of historical awareness shall dawn in Tennessee.



Tennessee will host a competition leading to the National Bee. *Courtesy of Google.*

Math department updates *The Bell Ringer*

By Davis Lovvorn
Staff News Writer

Mr. Golenor, chair of the math department, graciously gave *The Bell Ringer* a few minutes to update us on happenings in his department.

Davis Lovvorn: Can you tell me about the recent AMC 10 and 12?

Mr. Golenor: On February 8th, the Big Red mathletes embarked on a formidable task. The AMC 10 and 12 are very challenging and competitive national exams - so hard that you earn points for not answering. (This seemed like a joke, but quite true.) Eighty MBA students took the AMC 10, and about sixty-five took the AMC 12.

DL: Can you update me on any recent math competitions?

MG: There are no updates, but the Big Red math squad is grinding away to increase leads in Statistics, Algebra I and II; and Calculus is foaming at the mouth to gain a lead. The Quiz Bowl team is chomping at

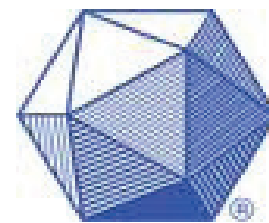
the bit for its first competition next week.

DL: Do you have a sheriff update?

MG: The Lord of the Exam still reigns supreme. Worthy candidates are nipping at my feet - but only the strong will survive.

DL: Is there any other news?

MG: On February 5th, the Mathcounts team (or CrobeCounts, as I, Davis, call it) embarks for the city tournament at the Adventure Science Center. Also, Coach Moran, in addition to his algebraic prowess, dabbles in sentence diagramming.



The highest national scorers on the AMC 10 and 12 are invited to take the American Invitational Mathematics Exam, a 15-question, 3-hour exam. Last year, 4 MBA students qualified and competed.

Chef Malcolm Morrison

English teacher, theater director loves to cook

By Joe Barry
Staff Writer

Many students know Mr. Malcolm Morrison as an English III teacher, junior school theater teacher, and director of some of MBA's theater productions. Less known to many students is that Mr. Morrison can add *chef* to his list of occupations, and a very good chef he is.

He is very interested in cooking and has been since about the age of 13. Since his mother owned a restaurant of her own and was very busy with her culinary duties, young Mr. Morrison would often cook lunch for her.

His brother and sister also cooked often, with his sister owning a guesthouse and his brother being especially talented in preparing French dishes. He attended Johnson and Wales Culinary School in Providence, RI to refine his skills even more.

Mr. Morrison has been teaching cooking classes to adults for eight years, in addition to school classes. He is invited to teach a class once a month at Whole Foods in Green Hills where he has covered a range

of dishes and styles including fish, BBQ, Spanish, British, Greek, and Mexican. His favorite style, however, is Italian.

Also, he teaches a two-week long cooking camp in the summer with a different theme of dish each day. He started this camp about ten years ago when several MBA boys asked if he could teach them a few simple meals to cook when they went off to college.

From different pasta dishes all the way to gourmet desserts, this brief camp lets students learn how to cook a little bit of everything. It culminates in each student's cooking a meal for an invited guest.

I took this class, and all that I had learned by the end of it fascinated me. It is something I highly recommend taking in June. In addition to these classes, Mr. Morrison also caters for different MBA events such as the Mothers of Alumni Breakfast and the New Faculty Luncheon.

Mr. Morrison also spent time in Italy, which would explain why Italian is his favorite style of food to make. He spent a lot of his time indoors in the heat of the summer learning several Italian cooking techniques, such as making gnocchi, a type of pasta.

Mr. Morrison credits his mother as his main influence, but also he cites Jamie Oliver, Antonio Carluccio, and The River Café.



Mr. Malcolm Morrison, aside from teaching and directing, is quite the cook.

MBA student reflects through ice creation

>> IGLOO FROM P1

like a sore thumb, despite being the most natural structure for miles.

BR: That's a lot to digest, but let me see if I follow. Your igloo is a statement about postmodern isolation in that it's a natural edifice in the midst of a concrete jungle, and we critique the structure for its difference?

JM: More or less. I think the juxtaposition adds depth. Here's the primal architecture of the igloo set against what we deem a reflection of the "classic" in the Greek Revival design of Ball's columns or the more modern glass and steel of Pfeiffer's spire. I think, however, anyone's guess is as good as mine as to the "correct" interpretation of my art.

BR: Mr. Mellow, thank you for your time. What do you plan to do the next time we get a good snow?

JM: I'm not sure, but I think I'll be building something.



Mellow describes the juxtaposition of the igloo's primal architecture set against "classic" Greek Revival designs on the Hill. Photo courtesy of McKay Proctor.

The Bell Ringer mascot Spanky (left) is very bummed that Igloo II was not permanent - it would have made a nice new home for him and his Ewok family.

MBA to be host for Global Healthcare Summit

By Karthik Sastry
News Editor

On March 26th, twenty students and ten professors from elite high schools around the world will convene in Nashville to participate in the week-long International Healthcare Symposium at MBA. The event is the brainchild of Headmaster Gioia, who has worked very hard to conceive and host it in Nashville.

A partnership between MBA and Winchester College in England, the Symposium series will focus on the global health crisis and the challenges for international policymakers.

This planned health care event also served as the inspiration for the selection of Tracy Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains* as the all-school summer reading book.

The Bell Ringer had a chance to talk to Mr. Gioia about his expectations for the event and the impact it will have on the MBA community.

Bell Ringer: Who are some of the notable guests who will be invited to give presentations?

Mr. Gioia: Dr. Jeffrey Balser, head of Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Congressman Jim Cooper, Dr. Christophe Fournier, the president of Doctors Without Borders, and Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Partners in Health, will be speaking at the gathering.

BR: Will many of the discussions and lectures be open to students?

Mr. Gioia: Though this is a select gathering, specifically meant for the invitees, I will make every attempt to impress on our distinguished speakers to address our MBA students at special assemblies. I would also encourage students to participate

in certain sessions of interest. Further, it would be great if our students could meet the participants as they intermingle in the dining hall during the lunch session.

BR: What is the source of funding for this Symposium?

Mr. Gioia: A well-known Nashville entrepreneur, when approached, generously offered to fund the entire event. Additionally, other benefactors have also contributed in different ways.

BR: Could you provide some details about the students participating in the event?

Mr. Gioia: There will be twenty students in all, representing ten schools and ten different countries and, thus, making this a truly global event. These representatives have been specifically chosen because of their interest in healthcare issues and global disparities, and they will be contributing their unique perspectives to the overall symposium.

BR: What are we doing in terms of hospitality?

Mr. Gioia: Students themselves are going to be staying with families, and we will house the teachers at the Hampton Inn in Green Hills. During the free time, we would like to give them a taste of what Nashville is like. As part of the schedule, we are planning visits to the Ryman, the Frist Museum, and the Loveless Café. We will also be able to attend a Predators game.

BR: What is the expected outcome of this summit?

Mr. Gioia: After detailed discussions at the Symposium, we are planning to put together a policy paper that will serve as a guide for health care debate and educate our students in this very important area. Also, it will be the launch of a new era for Montgomery Bell Academy as we move towards a global presence. This is truly a new pathway.



iPads in library are for everyone

Seniors disappointed to find no “Angry Birds” app

By **Rett Hooper**
Staff Writer

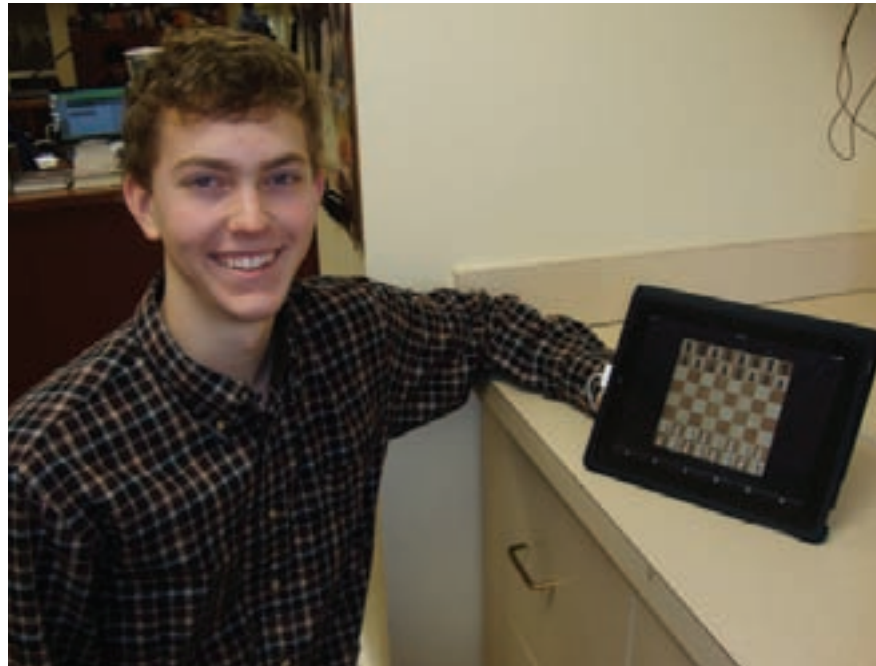
During our winter break, the library got six iPads for both student and faculty use. Located in the “iPad Pad” behind the librarians’ desks, these machines are essentially databases themselves.

With all sorts of educational apps, the iPads can help anyone find any information he needs. They do not have games on them, but they instead have apps that stimulate the mind. *National Geographic*, *Popular Science*, and *Time* are only a few of the magazines available on the iPads, and the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today* are just two of the newspapers included.

The iPads are supposed to help students become more intrigued in their studies, as well to help teachers develop better techniques in the classroom. Video Physics, virtual frog dissections, and 3-D descriptions of the elements of the periodic tables are all great ways of instilling an interest in science for students. Essential language programs may help students find an interest in language study as well.

TED and iTunes U are apps the librarians are particularly excited about. TED contains “ideas worth sharing,” or great plans and designs thought up by regular people who wish to make a difference in the world. iTunes U is equally as interesting, as it shows videos of classes taught by excellent college professors. This app is especially helpful to MBA teachers who wish to improve their skills and develop new methods of teaching.

The iPads can do almost anything, so everyone should go to the library to try out these new computers. One can even read a book on a Kindle at home, using the Kindle Sharing app. The iPads now have First Class on them, and the librarians are looking to add even more apps. Mrs. Tilley says that she is even trying to download school textbooks on to the iPads.



Gray Jones takes on the iPad in chess. It looks like a tie ball game from here. By the way, Gray, you look tired. Check out Ryan’s article right there ---->



With six iPads in the Library “Pad,” multiple students may use iPads at the same time. Or, if you are a real champ, you can use up to six iPads all at once!

All photos courtesy of Andrew Dupuis.



Seniors Andrew Powell and John Wyse work to cure cancer with a little help from the Apple iPad.

Circadian cycles, not Black Ops, explain why many fall asleep in class

>> SLEEP FROM P1

schedule, and failure to adhere to its biological processes is the source of all tiredness, mental and social crippling, and general lack of handsomeness from which sleep-deprived young men suffer. Reduced immune system function is another commonly observed side-effect.

According to Robert Pruitt, resident expert on goobers and the aerobic threshold, one’s memory also seems to be at stake. A certain test presents several subjects with a pattern of nonsense words (“rinr, tasd, geds, ensworth, etc.”) and 15 minutes to study them. Compared to their well-rested counterparts, individuals kept awake for 24 hours have displayed a 35-40% reduction in recall in this scenario.

In addition to this strange yet telling tidbit, he also shared an article with me from *USA Today* that cites several recent studies linking adequate sleep to a decreased risk of obesity.

Nine hours seems to be the agreed-upon amount of shuteye that qualifies as healthy for a teenager. However, this is a virtually impossible goal for most students because of a nice little chemical called melatonin, which your body releases to prepare you for sleep.

The human circadian cycle shifts forward at puberty, meaning melatonin production begins to occur much later at night compared to childhood. Consequently, many teenagers are incapable of falling asleep early in the evening. Moreover, the ideal waking hour is right around the time most high schools’ bells ring.

Understanding the importance and intricacies of sleep should be the beginning of a road to increased well-being, but for many students (including me), all potential progress is halted by the fact that they attend MBA. Time is a precious commodity, along with XBOX Live and fantasy football. There is simply no room for an earlier bedtime, which, of course, would also be totally lame and potentially pointless thanks to Mr. Melatonin.

Is there any solution to this self-wrought epidemic? Is it possible to be both Big Red and in bed? Will I become a zombie and desire to chew on my friends if I pull two consecutive all-nighters? Do double rainbows really exist?

Several schools throughout the country have experimented with altering their daily schedules to conform to young adults’ ideal sleep patterns. MBA has even shown signs of progressing in such a direction.

Over the past few years, our PSAT testing time has been moved forward a great deal, much to the joy of Molly Powell, mother of our own Editor-in-Chief. She has been a strong advocate for such shifts, citing the clearly positive influence of the later time on high school testing results, and has periodically recruited the support of certain members of our administration.

As Mr. Gioia announced at the beginning of this semester, our midterms and finals will be pushed forward to 9:00am beginning this spring. If everyone goes to bed the night before each exam at the same time he has in the past, he automatically gains an extra hour of sleep that could be the difference between a B and an A, or even between summer school and chillin’ beans with special ladyfriends.

So grab your teddies, kiss your mommies goodnight, and hit that hay. A brighter future, better ACT scores, and your pillow are calling.

Strive harder for Big Red Points

No surprise that Seniors currently lead the pack

By **McKay Proctor**
Staff Fan

Gentleman, fanhood above and beyond the call of duty is the stuff of legend here on the Hill (I’m looking at you Colin Caldwell.)

Only recently have we, the student council, decided to reward those who answer the Big Red Call, thus the Big Red Point system.

Currently, the high school is being embarrassed as the more microbial classes are closer to the lead than they should be. Frankly, this cannot stand.

We’ve been advertising each event of the week in the daily announcements, but the high school still lacks the participation (read: burying of the junior school) that we want to see.

The reward for the class with enough good men to outshine the rest will receive a celebration of their fanhood on a grand scale. Individually, if you have the sheer grit to lead all students, you will receive a fine MBA Toboggan.

Below are the class rankings and a preiteration of what will appear in the announcements leading up to each event. Godspeed, and good fanhood.

#1 -- Seniors

#2 -- Juniors

#3 -- 8th grade

#4 -- 7th grade

#5 -- Freshmen

#6 -- Sophomores...

(seriously, guys?)

UPCOMING BIG RED POINTS EVENTS:

- Wednesday, February 9th:
Hockey vs. Mt. Juliet at
Southern Ice / A-game (6:30 pm)

- Friday, Feb 18th: Student
Council Football Tournament
(10-12 am)

- Friday, Feb 25th: 3
Musketeers Play (7:00 pm)

- Saturday, Mar 5th: Varsity
Lacrosse vs. Trinity (1:00 pm)

- Sunday, Mar 6th: Annual
School Concert (5:00 pm)

Remembering 2010: year review of movies, music

Best Movies of 2010

By Walton Macey
Staff Movie Critic

Wally's Favorite



Best 2010 Horror



Best 2010 Comedy



Best 2010 Drama



And the worst movies

Worst of 2010

Leap Year- A terrible chick flick about some Irish condition where the woman proposes.

Spy Next Door- Jackie Chan as a babysitter, not funny for anyone older than 12.

Saw 7- They need to stop making these unnecessarily twisted and gory movies. The original Jigsaw who designs all the traps died in *Saw 3* or *4*, so the story has no point.

Charlie St. Cloud- That guy from high school musical stars in a not good movie about sailing, love, and an imaginary brother.

Dinner for Schmucks- This movie was the year's biggest disappointment in my humble opinion. It had so much promise with Steve Carrel, Paul Rudd, and the funny guy from *The Hangover*. The end result was pretty flat and ridiculous, not worthy of my seeing again.

Avatar The Last Airbender- M. Night Shyamalan has lost his touch. This movie, based on the kids show on Cartoon Network, is very corny and dumb.

My Favorite Toy Story 3

I grew up watching *Toy Story 1* and *2*, and I had very high expectations for this third movie. This movie was great! It was funny for everybody young and old. It was sad (I legitimately cried). It was intense, unpredictable, and satisfying. This final installation of the *Toy Story* franchise includes all of the lovable characters and adds dozens more. I've seen this movie three times, so I hope you are convinced that it is worth seeing.

Horror The Crazies

It seems like every scary movie nowadays is lame and ridiculous. *The Crazies* is a very entertaining zombie movie that seems more realistic than all the rest. In a small town in Iowa, certain citizens are starting to space out and go insane with violent urges. It seems like the sheriff, his wife, and his deputy are the only ones unaffected as they try to escape. If you like being scared or jumping out of your seat during movies, this quality horror flick would be the perfect entertainment.

Comedy She's Out of My League

This is probably my favorite comedy of 2010. First of all, the lead actress is very attractive. The awkward humor throughout the movie is ingenious. The lead guy is put in such uncomfortable situations that it is extremely tough not to laugh. The basic plot is a nerdy, average guy working security at the airport somehow begins dating a woman way out of his league. The movie is unpredictable and consistently funny, I highly recommend this movie to any high school guy.

Drama King's Speech

When I heard what this movie was about, I was not at all interested in seeing it. Basically, it's about a king with an extreme stutter who has to start giving speeches as his country heads to war so he hires a bizarre speech therapist (Captain Barbosa from *Pirates of the Caribbean*). Going into the movie not expecting much, I was pleasantly surprised, and I now fully expect this movie to win Best Picture. Both Colin Firth, playing the awkward king, and Geoffrey Rush, playing the eccentric therapist, are fantastic in a charming and well made movie.

Honorable mentions that I have not seen or have mentioned before:

True Grit
The Fighter
Black Swan
Inception
Social Network

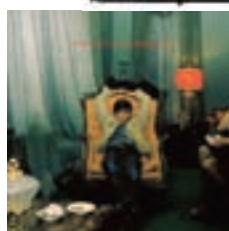
Best Music of 2010

By Jamie Joyce
Staff Entertainment Writer

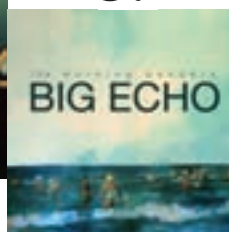
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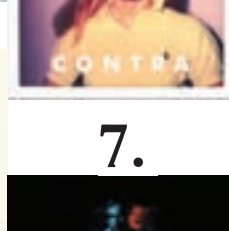
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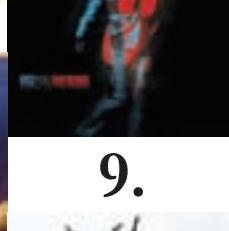
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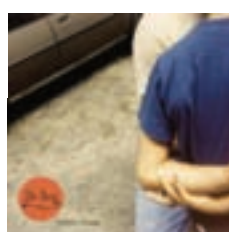
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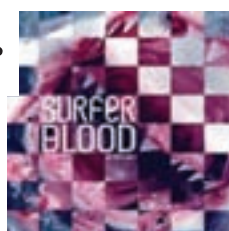
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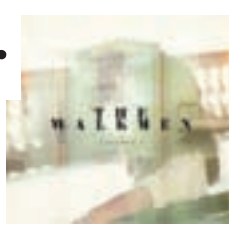
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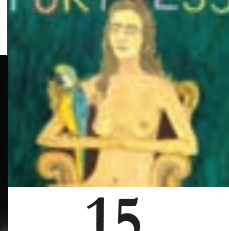
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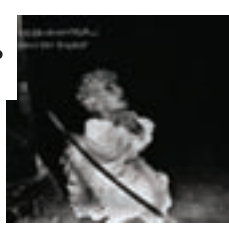
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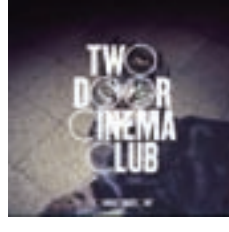
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To many, in a number of areas, 2010 is the year most closely affiliated with the word "disappointment." However, even the most emotionally scarred of us has to admit that the one area in which we as human beings did excel in 2010 was music. After careful consideration and much deliberation, *The Bell Ringer* was able to compile 2010's musical highs and lows.

TOP 15 ALBUMS OF 2010

Brothers – The Black Keys

All hail the Keys. After leaving us on a seemingly indefinite hiatus, the Akron swamp-rock blues duo left everyone wondering whether or not they would return to rock our worlds once more. However, it seemed unlikely that they would be able to top their successful, Danger Mouse-produced sixth album *Attack & Release*. Boy did they prove us wrong. After drummer Pat Carney's divorce, he and singer-guitarist Dan Auerbach reunited to make not only the best album of their career but also of 2010. Starting off with "Everlasting Light," a killer of an opening track, the Black Keys seem to warn the listener with Auerbach's polished falsetto and Carney's driving groove of the impending awesomeness their eardrums are about to endure. Soulful cuts like "Next Girl" and "Too Afraid to Love You" recall tales of the women that "done" them wrong, while straight up dirty instrumentals like "Black Mud" need no lyrics to pack a punch. What's even more impressive is that even the Keys don't consider themselves to be above a cover, as they give a righteous tribute to Jerry Butler with Auerbach going for vocal chord gold on "Never Gonna Give You Up." It's simply beautiful. As their album title suggests, the Black Keys are back stronger and more unified than ever before.

Transference – Spoon

Britt Daniel may be one of the best frontmen of all time. He is the essence of cool. Every phrase, no matter how seemingly incoherent, instantly turns to gold as it propels out of his mouth and into the microphone. Only a singer of this caliber could make expressions like "and I have my brown sound jacket/queen of call collect on my arm" just seem so perfect. 2010's *Transference* is a rock masterpiece that almost seems to embody the word "groove." High points include the head-bopping "Is Love Forever" as well as the unbelievable vocal chord-scraper "Written In Reverse." But, the focal point of the album and Spoon's twenty-ten *piece de resistance* is "Trouble Comes Running." Complete with ooh-ing backup vocals in all the right places and drummer Jim Eno's thumping four-on-the-floor beat, "Trouble" is the perfect example of a Spoon song. Without it, the album would not be complete. Of course, the music of *Transference* is great, but what makes it stand out amongst other albums are the lyrics. Spoon, much like rock greats Steely Dan, seem to possess the gift of writing prose that may not necessarily mean anything but just sounds right. Perhaps Britt Daniel pokes fun at this notion when he asks the listener "are you picking up what I'm putting down?"

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Seattle's Best is good place for homework, coffee

By Blake Burns
Staff Food Writer

Last Sunday I found myself in a tough situation. I had to start my theme, study for a Latin test, do some math homework, and, on top of it all, read for history. This is a typical night of homework here at our fine establishment, but the real problem was where to do this homework.

Home, as the word *homework* suggests, was way too loud and busy. Therefore, I needed a place to do my work, and I needed it quickly! I thought, "Maybe I'll go to Starbucks?"

But, of course, Starbucks is way too loud with all of the music in its attempt to be trendy. I remembered Mr. Kelly referring to Seattle's Best Coffee one day in class, so I tried it out.

Just as I walked in, I was immediately greeted with a smile by the very friendly worker. She helped me decide exactly what I should get, since I was new to the establishment. So, I finally decided on a mocha and said to her, "I'll take a Venti Mocha." She was very quick to reply, "You mean a large?" This question blew me away. Yes, my friend, at Seattle's Best Coffee you can order a small or maybe a medium or even a large. This was truly a liberating feeling. I can now order coffee just as I order everything else. In English. What an interesting concept, right?



Seattle's Best Coffee offers a good alternative to Starbucks, whether you are in need of caffeine or a quiet place to do homework. Photo courtesy of Blake Burns' cell phone.

I received my mocha very shortly and was quite impressed with the taste. It was more intense than a Starbucks drink. After asking the woman working there why it was so much better, she explained that SBC uses a sauce to make their mochas while Starbucks uses a powder.

I was able to start my homework in a well-lit environment without any distraction. I later finished my homework, and then had a pleasant conversation with the people working at SBC.

SBC also offers sandwiches, chips and cookies along with their plethora of coffee drinks and refreshments. This is a great place to grab a treat and to do your homework.

Seattle's Best is located in the Hill Center right next to Sweet Cece's.

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Verizon's addition of iPhone is good for customers

>> IPHONE FROM P2

switch can potentially be very expensive, but, in my opinion, the change would be well worth it, considering how much more reliable Verizon seems to be, at least in the Nashville area. Especially with Verizon's new 4G network and their already massive data coverage, a switch based on service would make sense.

Also, Verizon's current device offerings other than the iPhone are excellent, should a family member want to go the Android route.

Now, onto the second question: "Should Verizon users buy an iPhone?" The best way to answer this is to offer a comparison of the iPhone with its obvious direct competitors in the Droid line.

Why you should buy an iPhone: First, Apple products simply work very well, with very few problems. Second, they have the best music player around. Third, they have the largest selection of apps. Fourth, Apple has consistent software updates. Fifth, their devices are very easy to use, and it is very difficult to mess anything up.

On the other hand, here is why you should buy a Droid or other Android phone: first, you have the option of a physical keyboard. Second, the Droids are fully customizable in every single way imaginable. Third, the homescreens aren't just a big list of apps. Fourth, you get free Google Maps Navigation. Fifth, you will have phone-wide voice-to-text input. Last, you receive better notifications.

Since these lists likely mean little to most people, they can be condensed into two simple sentences. If you want a device that works very well and very consistently with the well-respected Apple name on it, the iPhone is the clear choice. If you want a phone that can be customized completely and has the best GPS Navigation available for free and which offers the option of a physical keyboard, a Droid would be a better option.

The iPhone is extremely reliable. It works very quickly with relative simplicity and is very user-friendly to someone just entering the smart-phone world. Its selection of apps is unparalleled, and its music player is the industry leader. Some of its more intricate aspects give me cause to prefer Droids, which run on Google's Android operating system. For one, the user can almost fully customize his Droid right out of the box and, with a little knowledge, can change literally anything to their liking. Secondly, the way the phone notifies the user about texts, emails, missed calls, etc. is far better than on the iPhone, keeping them all listed at the top of the screen in a sleek pull-down menu.

In conclusion, if you are absolutely set on getting an iPhone, don't get one when it comes out. Wait until the new one comes out in what will likely be June. A new iPhone has come out every summer since launch, and it would be one serious bummer to be stuck with an outdated iPhone for two long years while that contract runs out.

Jamie continues counting down top 15 of 2010

See page 9 for all of the album art!

>> ALBUMS FROM P9

Big Echo – The Morning Benders

Although many albums can be described as great, few can be described as beautiful. *Big Echo* simultaneously takes us back in time and propels us into the future as a concept album about the pains and virtues of growing older, set to the background of a booming, Phil Spector wall of sound emblazoned with melodies that could have come straight off of a Beach Boys record. The album opens with “Excuses,” a lavish and decadent song so sweet that you’ll feel guilty listening to it. Eerily similar to Etta James’ “At Last,” it is definitely one of the high points of the album, along with “Wet Cement,” “Cold War,” “Hand Me Downs,” and the electrifying “Promises.” Although the song writing is excellent, part of the genius of the album is the production. After recording the majority of the album at home in San Francisco, the band enlisted the help of Grizzly Bear’s Chris Taylor to help them mix the tracks in Brooklyn until they were able to find the sound they wanted – a washed out, echo-y vibe that’s not reverby enough to hide the melody and instrumentation. What’s also great about *Big Echo* is that it has a progression to it. Tempos getting slower and lyrics less anxious as the album plays forward, the movement of the album seems to reflect life itself. “I can’t help thinking we grew up too fast,” ponders singer/guitarist Chris Chu. *Big Echo* certainly leaves you wanting more – perhaps he’s right.

Champ – Tokyo Police Club

If you want to know what it’s like to defeat a stereotype, look no further than Canadian alt-rockers Tokyo Police Club. Fears of an inevitable sophomore slump plagued members of the band, who initially experienced a wave of positive reviews and hype after their 2008 debut *Elephant Shell*, earning themselves the nickname of the “Canadian Strokes.” But TPC did the exact opposite and went ahead to make an even better album. Whereas the Morning Bender’s *Big Echo* ponders aging, *Champ* has a more nostalgic feeling, reminiscing about teen years and early childhood. What’s funny about TPC is that they have seemed to move backwards. It’s usually bands’ sophomore efforts that bear the dark and introspective lyrics, the angst and the struggle with stardom. But it seems as if the band chose instead to make their serious album first and save the fun for later. *Champ* sounds like the fun, poppy debut record that they always wanted to make. “Tell me, what’s your favorite color!?” inquires singer/bassist Dave Monks’ unmistakable voice as he sings about reconnecting with old childhood friends and juvenile dreams of “marrying a dancer” or a “vegetarian who can’t stand to be wrong.” High points of the album include powerful slow-burner “Breakneck Speed,” hazy and intoxicated “Bambi,” and the car-chase soundtrack of “Wait Up (Boots of Danger).” The band is tight and the melodies are both original and enjoyable. A near-perfect summer album, *Champ* hits you where it counts and conjures up feelings of excited wistfulness as you recall “the nights we spent in backs of cars,” laughing and driving around with your friends, out of school, with the music turned up way too loud.

Contra – Vampire Weekend

In 2010 the biggest buzz band since the Strokes proved that they were much more than an Ivy League, Cape Cod fad. In fact, they’re actually a very smart and very talented band. Each member provides his own little touch of genius to the collaboration. Ezra Koenig’s croon, Rostam Batmanglij’s sophisticated composing, Chris Baio’s impeccably jumpy basslines, and Chris Tomson’s interesting and worldly beats all contribute something to the definite *sound* of Vampire Weekend. *Contra* seems to pick up where their 2008 self-titled debut left off. Getting a bit more electronic (check out Koenig’s “T-pained” vocals on “California English”) and a lot more complex (“Diplomat’s Son”), the band has seemed to really define themselves. The songs, all in all, are just delightful. The intricate tongue-twisting “Horchata” seals the band’s cosmopolitan reputation in stone while the subtle electronica of “Giving Up The Gun” adds depth with a melody almost as poppy as a Dr. Luke composure. However, the reason why *Contra* is such an important album is because it has cemented Vampire Weekend as much more than the mere internet-buzz trend they started out to be. They’ve proven that they can handle the pressure of being a “big deal” and of having one of the most highly anticipated albums of the year. Don’t get me wrong, their first album was fantastic. But now we can be certain to expect many great things from them in the future – which is comforting because we all love their music so much.

Foxy Shazam – Foxy Shazam

The “biggest album” award (sonically speaking), as well as the “best cover art” award, goes to Foxy Shazam’s 2010 self-titled album. They also happen to give one of the best live performances in the world. Channeling Queen, Meat Loaf, and perhaps a touch of Bowie, Foxy Shazam make a declaration that they have set out to blow your mind and they *will* succeed. It’s peppy, it’s anthemic, it’s foxy and shazam all rolled into one. In “Oh Lord,” frontman Chris Nally manages to encourage the listener to never give up without sounding cliché and call out all the hipsters in “Wanna-Be-Angel.” This is rock ‘n roll, man. Operatic and fun in nature, I would pay top dollar to have the band play live for me every time I go in to work out or take a test.

Pickin’ Up the Pieces – Fitz & The Tantrums

One of the coolest acts to come out of 2010, Fitz & The Tantrums are a funky five-piece that seem to come straight out of the 70’s. Playing instruments, such as the organ, the flute, and the saxophone, that have become increasingly rare in pop music over the past few years, Fitz & The Tantrums bring something new to the table by bringing something old. Slick basslines and sharp tradeoff vocals between singers Michael Fitzpatrick and Noel Scaggs only add to the authenticity. Check out “Breakin’ the Chains of Love” and “Pickin’ Up the Pieces” for the full effect of their dazzling debut of Motown-inspired songs.

Shame, Shame – Dr. Dog

Recalling acts the Beatles and Band, Dr. Dog establishes itself as the late sixties rock band of the 2000’s with *Shame, Shame*.

Whimsical grooves such as “Mirror, Mirror” and funky odes to the outcast like “Stranger” supply the listener with the perfect soundtrack to a nice day sitting on a blanket at a music festival or perhaps even relaxing on the beach. It’s a thoroughly enjoyable album from start to finish.

I Had The Blues But I Shook Them Loose – Bombay Bicycle Club

Another debut album by a great band, *I Had The Blues But I Shook Them Loose* is a very interesting collection of songs filled with sharply executed guitar riffs and enticing melodies. Lead singer Jack Steadman’s warbly voice sets the tone for a somewhat dark and mysterious album that’s still a ton of fun to listen to. Check out the extremely catchy “Always Like This” and “Open House” for a taste of what this great new British band has to offer.

Astro Coast – Surfer Blood

Describing Surfer Blood’s sound is a hard thing to do. It’s definitely surf rock. But it has a bit more of an 80’s vibe to it. Think of them as the odd spawn of the Beach Boys and Crowded House. It sounds strange but it seriously works. After spending the year touring with Nashville’s own Turbo Fruits, which included a small show at Grimey’s, Surfer Blood starting picking up a lot of buzz and positive reviews from the likes of *Rolling Stone* and *NME*. Luckily, they meet expectations on their debut album *Astro Coast*. The one complaint that someone could make about the album is that while all their songs are good, they open up the album with the best one. After starting off with the tremendously catchy “Floating Vibes,” the album only seems to get worse from there. However, the problem with that statement is that there isn’t a bad song on the album. But despite that one little problem, *Astro Coast* is extremely enjoyable, and I strongly encourage you to check it out.

Permalight – Rogue Wave

Although hipsters across the country complained about Rogue Wave attempting to delve into the “mainstream” on their fourth album, *Permalight* is still an incredibly enjoyable album. Sure, it’s not their *best* album, and, sure, they get a bit more synthy on “Goodmorning (The Future)” and abandon their usual heartbreak for a more happier tone with “Solitary Gun.” However, *Permalight* gets the job done and is still better than a lot of the junk that came out in 2010. But it’s not like Rogue Wave has made any extreme changes in terms of their sound. Hardcore fans will enjoy the pensive “Fear Itself” and “Sleepwalker,” which both recall chord arrangements and melodies that sound more like 2005’s *Descended Like Vultures*. Also, *Permalight* is a great album considering the amount of bad luck that the band has gone through in the past year. In early 2010, recording for the album had to be halted due to lead singer Zach Rogue’s neck injuries. Rogue Wave also went through some bad times after their former bassist and close friend of the band, Evan Farrell, tragically died in a house fire. So, as I said, *Permalight* may not be Rogue Wave’s *best* album but it’s still really catchy and a great listen.

Lisbon – The Walkmen

The Walkmen have always had a reputation for being the best band that nobody’s

heard of. Great songs throughout their career such as “The Rat” and “In The New Year” have put them on the same creative level (if not a higher one) than acclaimed indie darlings like Spoon and Vampire Weekend. They are consistently original by mixing a strong 50’s pop sensibility (they cite Roy Orbison as one of their biggest influences) with the driving, fast-paced guitar strumming and drum beats of modern rock. Their sixth album, *Lisbon*, is no exception. Listen to the reverby doo-wop of “Torch Song” or the surf, Ventures-inspired “Woe is Me”, and you’ll instantly become a fan.

FORTRESS – Miniature Tigers

Very geeky and very lovable Miniature Tigers have been one of the best new under-the-radar bands of the past two years. Their poppy songs about young, sheepish love and (a bit less conventional) Japanese women living in closets will leave a smile on your face as you listen to their second album *F O R T R E S S*, which was co-produced by Neon Indian and the Morning Benders’ Chris Chu. Best songs on the album include “Rock N’ Roll Mountain Troll” and the iridescent “Bullfighter Jacket.”

Halcyon Digest – Deerhunter

Let the reader be warned: it gets weird. Deerhunter is certainly an acquired taste, and their new album *Halcyon Digest* is definitely one of those albums that you have to listen to three or four times before you feel like you “get it.” But Deerhunter gets points for originality. Delve into the second half of the album, which seems to occur right when you get accustomed to the weird and start listening more intently. “Desire Lines” is a great track that’s easy to get stuck in your head, and “Basement Scene,” which, I kid you not, sounds exactly like something that Jefferson Airplane would have written, makes for a very engaging tune. But the real stand-out song of *Halcyon Digest* is the splendidly atmospheric “Helicopter” that sounds a bit like MGMT trying to play Grizzly Bear... or perhaps the other way around. Regardless, *Halcyon Digest* is a good album and, although the listener may not really, really enjoy every single song, he will certainly never be bored.

Tourist History – Two Door Cinema Club

Extremely catchy, this album will instantly make you feel as if you’re walking slow motion into a club as hundreds of heads swivel in your direction, wondering “who is that insanely cool person?” It makes you feel like a total bamf. It’s full of dueling guitars, synthy blips and dance-floor beats. Plus, lead singer Alex Trimble’s voice is awesome. Best songs on the album include the anthemic “This Is the Life,” dancy “Undercover Martyn,” as well as the best song on the album “Eat That Up, it’s Good For You,” which, I swear, makes you feel like you are cruising in a spaceship every time you listen to it while driving. The one flaw it has is that some of the songs seem superfluous and start to run together. There’s not a whole lot of variation in the songwriting. However, it’s still a good album from a band that I’m sure we can expect great things from in the future.

That’s it! Congrats to anyone who read the whole thing. Your prize? See page 14 for the 5 biggest disappointments of 2010!

Nashville's rock music is big, getting bigger

Local Rock scene grows

By Tom Markham
Entertainment Editor

Rock and Roll finally took its rightful place in Music City, USA, in 2010. Country music had its big year, as expected (we can't forget about T-Swift, Garth Brooks' flood relief concerts, and Country Strong!), but the Nashville music community closed out the decade with a major development that has been missing in this city for too long: the Rock and Roll scene finally took root and made huge strides on the national level.

This great year of rocking wasn't so much due to any huge concerts that came to town – though we can look forward to U2 in July – but more as a result of smaller local bands joining together and forming a solid rock scene in the place of a formerly cutthroat, disjointed community.

We can thank two groups of people for this wonderful development: Jack White and his gang at Third Man Records, and the folks at local indie blog Nashville's Dead. These two groups crossed paths, and sparks flew.

Jack White began bringing local shows to his house at Third Man – The Next Big Nashville showcase this summer featured an all-star cast of rising local bands – and Nashville's Dead kept discovering new bands for the eager hipsters to listen to, sponsoring local shows at lesser known venues such as Glenn Danzig's House and the Other Basement all the while.

I'd like to dedicate the rest of this article space to highlighting some of the bands that electrified Nashville's rock and roll community in 2010. I'll also take you through some excellent bands to look out for in 2011.

Who killed it in 2010

Three local bands come to mind as having monstrous years, all of which have been championed by both Jack White and Nashville's Dead.

JEFF the Brotherhood – this garage-psych duo of brothers Jake and Jamin Orrall is a frenzied combination of the Black Keys and Black Sabbath. Frontman Jake spits out down-and-dirty riffs on his three-stringed guitar while Jamin pounds away on the drums like an angry, reckless cave child. Big hits "Heavy Days" and "U Got the Look" exemplify their signature rough-around-the-edges delivery as they whip out catchy hook after catchy hook. But what really makes JEFF the Brotherhood memorable is the band's live performance. The Bogus Bros, as Nashville's Dead affectionately calls them, pull out all the stops, turn the volume up to 11, and flail about on stage like banshees while delivering a tight-rocking performance. *Spin* magazine fell in love with the band and has monitored their tours through Europe and New Zealand. Their new album, *We Are the Champions*, will be released on their own Infinity Cat records sometime in the next few months.

<http://www.myspace.com/jakeand-jamin>

Other recommended songs: "The Tropics," "Heavy Krishna," "Bone Jamm"



Local rockers JEFF the Brotherhood had a major year in 2010.

Right: Turbo Fruits bring the surfer vibe to Nashville, but with a definite punch of punk.

Below: Daniel Pujol fronts the band PUJOL, who had a surprisingly swift rise to the national circuit.

All photos are courtesy of the respective bands.



PUJOL – Daniel Pujol (above) took his ragtag group of garage-rocking buddies from day jobs at Rocketown to nationwide touring rockers and Third Man Records signees in what appeared to be the blink of an eye. No one knows how it all happened so quickly, but when *Spin* and *Nylon* magazine both tapped PUJOL as a "Nashville Band to watch out for," you could tell these guys were for real. Frontman Daniel Pujol delivers catchy pop melodies in an unforgettable fast-paced, raspy Southern drawl, while his go-to guitarist Sean "To the Wall" Thompson whips out wah-laced hooks reminiscent of 60s garage rock. Songs like "Endless Mike" show the band's musical dexterity (the opening guitar riffs are unbelievable) while other noteworthy songs such as "Too Safe" and "Butterflyknife" show PUJOL's ability to create head-bobbing, fist-pumping anthems for the indie masses. Having recorded at Third Man Records for their "Black Rabbit" 7-inch, PUJOL is bound to stick around. Look for their LP *X-File on Main Street* later this year.

<http://www.myspace.com/daniellucapujol>

Other recommended songs: "Mayday," "Mission From God," "Deathmask"

Turbo Fruits

– Jonas Stein (above), former guitarist of now-defunct local heroes Be Your Own Pet, has found the perfect balance between throwback tunes and fresh jams. His band Turbo Fruits has gathered notoriety by supporting West Coast rockers Surfer Blood and having a major set of their own at Austin, Texas' South By Southwest festival. Their most recent album, *Echo Kid*, has a very carefree style with sounds reminiscent of 50s and 60s surf rock and bubblegum pop, but it also packs a punk-tinged punch with an attitude. Think Beach Boys meets Molly Hatchet, with a healthy dose of Bob Dylan and the Band tossed in there. Stein's vocals can be sweet and crooning on songs like "My Stupid Heart," or rambunctious and ragged on tunes like "Want Some Mo" and "Trouble!" Stein runs local record label Turbo Time himself, and, with the help of positive press from *Spin* magazine and Nashville's Dead, these boys are hoping to have a breakout 2011.

<http://turbofruits.com/music/>

Other recommended songs: "Dear Moses," "On the Road," "Where the Stars Don't Shine"



Local band D. Watusi is poised to have a big year in 2011.

Who to watch in 2011

Obviously, we can bet that the three bands mentioned above will have monstrous years in 2011, barring some tragic breakup, but here are a couple lesser-known local bands that are gradually making big waves in the Nashville rock and roll scene.

Big Surr – Local pop-punkers Diarrhea Planet teamed up with songstress Helen Van and switched around their instruments a bit, adding a warm beach vibe and a hint of My Bloody Valentine-esque guitar noise to their rocking sound, and out came Big Surr. The tight musicianship gives this pop-punk, beach-rock five-piece an edge over similar bands within the genre, and their tunes are unbelievably catchy. Emmett Miller's lead guitar hooks glide and stick with a crispness that is missing from most in the Lo-Fi scene. Their energy on stage is noteworthy (crowd surfing is an appropriate and frequent occurrence at their shows), and they've scored major gigs warming up for bands such as the Smith Westerns. If these guys keep up their beach-with-a-punch sound, there won't be anything stopping them from a big 2011.

<http://beachtapes.wordpress.com/2010/08/09/big-surr-alright/>

Recommended songs: "Alright," "Co Sine Tan Gent," "You Got Somethin'"

D. Watusi – Local upstart Dillon Watson (below) has gathered himself a gang of Nashville indie all-stars. Bassist Ben Todd runs Nashville's Dead, and drummer Cam Sarrett and keyboardist Christina Norwood have both been in multiple noteworthy Nashville-based lineups over the years. Their sound is a glorious throwback, complete with Wurlitzer accompaniment and heavy surf-rock party jams. Including among their influences The Troggs, Bo Diddley, and Norman Greenbaum, Watson finds a way to keep it fresh with faced-paced riffs, rough-and-tumble vocals, and a booming rhythm section. Their rendition of the classic "Gloria" at Glenn Danzig's House this summer nearly brought down the house, as audience members leapt on stage to sing along with D. Watusi. These guys seem to have a new gig every time you turn around, and, as one of the first bands on Nashville's Dead's brand new record label, look for them to get lots of publicity in 2011.

<http://www.myspace.com/dwatusi>

Recommended songs: "Summer Nights" and "High School Baby"

Biggest Musical Disappointments of 2010

By Jamie Joyce
Staff Music Enthusiast

Omni – Minus the Bear

Do you have any interest in hearing about lead singer Jake Snider's sexual exploits in semi-graphic detail over the background of insanely cheesy funk beats and predictable chord progressions? If so, then, man, do we have an album for you!

The Five Ghosts – Stars

It's not like Stars is a bad band... they just insist on making bad music. I say this because in the past Stars has written some incredible songs, such as "Your Ex-Lover is Dead" and "Elevator Love Letter." However, I found this synth and somewhat overdramatic album so boring that I almost fell asleep in the car while listening to it. C'mon guys. PS. Why are you throwing petals during your live shows? It adds nothing.

Infinite Arms – Band of Horses

We all knew it was going to be hard to top the impeccable *Cease to Begin*, but we assumed that Band of Horses would at least try to make an effort. Lead singer Ben Bridwell decided to swap out beautiful and melancholy songs like "No One's Gonna Love You" and the haunting "Detlef Schrempf" for an ode to some city in Texas where he's apparently going to "take a dip in the lake." You're better than that, Band of Horses.

Easy Wonderful – Guster

Perhaps one the biggest let downs of the year was Guster's much anticipated 2010 album. It is unclear to me as to how the composers of great songs such as "Amsterdam," "Barrel of a Gun," and "Satellite" could have made an album with approximately one good song. The most painful song on the album would probably have to be the hokey "Stay With Me Jesus." I have no problem with Christian bands or religious bands in general. However, the song is just so not Guster. The band has taken a total 360 and instead of a chorus they just sing "hallelujah" over and over again. There's an old saying in the music business that usually artists start writing songs about religion when they've become most uninspired. I'm hoping you conquer your writer's block soon, Guster.

Come Around Sundown – Kings of Leon

Like most of the world, I'm a huge Kings of Leon fan. They've been one of my favorite bands for a long time, and their 2009 show at the Bridgestone Arena was awesome. Maybe that's why this album didn't quite meet my expectations. All four of their previous albums were exceptional – yes, even *Only By The Night*. But after the painstakingly dull and cliché single "Radioactive," it seemed as if maybe KOL has finally run out of good songs to sing. Perhaps they're too comfortable and happy because *Come Around Sundown* was missing one of the key elements to the success of the other KOL albums – feeling. I didn't get the sense that any of the misery or nostalgia described in the lyrics of the songs were real, which didn't really let me connect with the album. So, I suppose that means that I don't really wish KOL the best with all their success because it seems that when they're at their best they're also at their worst.

3-point shooter to teach math, coach

By George Swenson
Staff Writer

The Bell Ringer sat down with new teacher Mr. Sean Jackson to discuss his arrival at MBA and his role on the varsity basketball team.

Bell Ringer: How did you arrive in Nashville and in particular at MBA?

Sean Jackson: I have been in Nashville the last 17 out of 19 years. My wife was a student at Vanderbilt, which brought me to the city initially in 1992. From 1996-1998, I was at Northwestern for my MBA degree, and we liked Nashville so much that we moved back after business school. After business school, I spent 12 years working as a stock analyst for an investment bank. I have known for quite some time that my next career would be in teaching and coaching, so it was just a matter of when the transition would happen. In late summer, I informed several of my fellow partners at our investment bank about this interest, and one recommended that I should talk to Mr. Gioia. That got the ball rolling. While the move happened quicker than I originally thought it would, I am glad it did.

BR: In addition to teaching, with what activities or clubs would you like to become involved?

SJ: I hope to continue my work with the basketball program and perhaps have an opportunity to work with other sports teams as well. My oldest son (age 10) is a competitive junior golfer, so that could be a good fit. Given that I am in the math department, getting involved in the math competitions is something that I foresee in my future. My wife helped run the MathCounts competitions for a number of years for the TN Society of Professional Engineers, so I am somewhat familiar with those competitions. Lastly, at Princeton I helped form a chapter and was president of FCA. I am glad to see there was an active group here.

BR: I have heard that you have had a highly decorated college basketball career. Can you please elaborate your career?

SJ: I was at Princeton during a special time. I was on nationally ranked teams that made three NCAA tournament appearances. Unfortunately, we never could get over the hump for a tournament win. Our closest and most disappointing game was a last-second loss to a #9 seeded Villanova team when we were a #8 seed. When you are on good teams, individual recognition usually follows, and I was voted 1st Team all-Ivy League my junior and senior years. Additionally, I was awarded with Ivy League Player of the Year my senior season.

BR: What is your role on the varsity basketball team?

SJ: My role is as an assistant coach for both JV and varsity. Coming in after the season had already started has forced me to be on a steep learning curve with Coach Anglin's system, but at the end of the day basketball is basketball, so I try to contribute where I can.

BR: As the basketball season begins to close, what aspect of the game do you think needs to be tightened the most so that MBA can repeat as state champions?

SJ: One of the key things that we

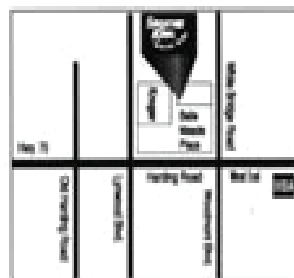


Mr. Sean Jackson's experience at Princeton and skill as a shooter make him a good coach for players like Chase Owen (22). Photo courtesy of Andrew Dupuis.

have been focusing on is trying to improve on the weaknesses that have been exposed throughout the season thus far. While we all believe we have made great strides in many areas, there are many others (e.g. turnovers, finishing near the rim, etc.) that still need

work. The good news is that these things are correctible, and we believe the boys will respond. Once this change happens, the skill level on the team is good enough for us to contend again.

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Max and Stephen's Mock Draft 1.0

Fairley is clearly the better player, but we expect the Panthers to goof and pick Bowers

By Stephen Bedard and Max Werthan
Staff "Mel Kiper" and "Todd McShay"

THE TOP 5



#	Team	Player	Position	College
1	Panthers	Da'Quan Bowers	DE	Clemson
2	Broncos	Nick Fairley	DT	Auburn
3	Bills	Marcell Dareus	DE/DT	Alabama
4	Bengals	Robert Quinn	DE	UNC
5	Cardinals	Blaine Gabbert	QB	Missouri
6	Browns	A.J. Green	WR	Georgia
7	49ers	Patrick Peterson	CB	LSU
8	Titans	Von Miller	OLB	Texas A&M
9	Cowboys	Prince Amukamara	CB	Nebraska
10	Redskins	Jake Locker	QB	Washington
11	Texans	Adrian Clayborn	DE	Iowa
12	Vikings	Cam Newton	QB	Auburn
13	Lions	Nate Solder	OT	Colorado
14	Rams	Julio Jones	WR	Alabama
15	Dolphins	Cameron Heyward	DE	OSU
16	Jaguars	Aldon Smith	OLB	Missouri
17	Patriots	Mark Ingram	RB	Alabama
18	Chargers	Derek Sherrod	OT	Ole Miss
19	Giants	Akeem Ayers	OLB	UCLA
20	Buccaneers	Tyron Smith	OT	USC
21	Chiefs	Brandon Harris	CB	Miami
22	Colts	Gabe Carimi	OT	Nebraska
23	Eagles	Anthony Castonzo	OT	Boston College
24	Saints	Justin Houston	OLB	Georgia
25	Seahawks	Ryan Kerrigan	DE	Purdue
26	Ravens	Torrey Smith	WR	Maryland
27	Falcons	J.J. Watt	DE	Wisconsin
28	Patriots	Stephen Paea	DE/DT	Oregon State
29	Bears	Aaron Williams	CB	Texas
30	Jets	Cameron Jordan	DE	Cal
31	Packers	Jimmy Smith	CB	Colorado
32	Steelers	Martez Wilson	ILB	Illinois



The 2011 NFL Draft airs April 28-30, live from Radio City Music Hall, New York. Tune in with this paper in hand to see how accurate our "experts" really are!

Wrestlers rise when others stay down

By Ian Sharbel
Staff Wrestler

MBA wrestlers believe, as Theodore Roosevelt once said, and the quotation is abbreviated, "It is not the critic who counts, nor matters the man who points out how the strong man stumbles. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

This statement is a source of inspiration for the MBA westlers. This year the MBA wrestling team is one of the youngest, yet most motivated teams MBA has had in a long time.

With nine state-ranked wrestlers and twenty-six tournament placers, the team is showing its talent and determination as it

approaches the state tournaments.

The starting line-up, coached by Coach "Cayce, what do you weigh?" Simpson, Coach "Insert College Nickname" Tarkington, Coach "Dude, Smokey Bear" Shone, Coach "SOM" McMurry, Coach "...THE EMPIRE..." Gillespie, and Coach "See Me in My Office" Norton, consists of Ryan "Rhino" Owen, Cayce "I Ate Too Much" Ortale, Drew "Shrew" Haynes, Conner "I Wrestle, Bro" Griffin, Matthew "Big Red Riding Hood" Davidson, Daniel "That Sucks" Bellet, John Mark "Oooh Hoo Hoo Ya" Bellet, Mark "Eagle Claw" Simpson, Eric "Rick Wings" Owings, Will "Where Are Your Shoes" Farrar, Chris "Stork" McClure, Ian "Lurch" Sharbel, James "Big Dawg" Kay, and Jay "Yes, I'm a freshman" Robertson.

The fights are only getting tougher, and every one of the weight classes is rising to meet and crush the competition. Major rivals going into the state duals include Baylor, McCallie, Christian Brothers, Brentwood Academy, and Father Ryan.

Helmet hits helmet: Interview with NFL referee

By Davis Lovvorn
Staff Writer

Bob McElwee is my grandfather. He also was a referee in the National Football League from 1976 to 2003. He was a line judge from 1976-1980 and a head referee from 1980-2003. He refereed three Super Bowls: Super Bowl XXII in 1988 between the Washington Redskins and the Denver Broncos; Super Bowl XXVIII between the Cowboys and the Bills; and Super Bowl XXXIV between the Rams and the Titans. In this last Super Bowl McElwee made the CORRECT call on the famous "One Yard Short" play. His final game was the 2003 Pro Bowl.

McElwee was gracious enough to give an interview to *The Bell Ringer* on the new helmet-to-helmet crackdown in the NFL.

Bell Ringer: What are your thoughts on the new helmet-to-helmet crackdown in the NFL?

Bob McElwee: I think it's very good because the idea is to provide the most safety for the players.

BR: How do you think the crackdown will affect penalty calling around the league?

BM: I think they'll call more penalties. The officials have been told to err on the side of safety every time. There will be more calls the fans and teams will not like, but if they're not sure, the flag should be thrown. The whole idea is to protect players from injury. You can repair broken bones, but studies show helmet-to-helmet hits can cause brain damage.

BR: Were there any big rule changes on helmet-to-helmet hits when you were in the NFL?

BM: No, because it didn't seem that we were getting an inordinate amount of head injuries at that time, but this is eight years later, and players are getting bigger and faster. We are more aware of injuries



Helmet to helmet contact received a lot of publicity this past year, and the NFL began cracking down significantly on the dangerous hits. James Harrison (right) is known for his vicious hits, such as this one that injured Cleveland WR Mohamed Massaquoi.



that occur later in life, and I know many players that are 60 years old that have health issues stemming from injuries during their playing days. Possibly they were playing when they should not have been playing. However, there is now no more blocking below the waist to prevent knee injuries, although in my day such blocks were normal. But you can't take the football out of football. Also, if you have your head down, you can't see what you're hitting or blocking, so the head should always be up, looking at the belt buckle. Now guys are lowering the head and using the helmet for a weapon. That's not even proper technique. How are they going to tackle a runner with bad technique?

BR: Do you think football will fundamentally change because of the crackdown?

BM: Absolutely not. I just think it's the greatest game in the world. I've been in the game for 53 years. When you have 22 players moving at the same time for 6 seconds violently, it's dynamite. You just have to be aware when the helmet is used as a weapon, and I think they're going to suspend players. I don't think fines are the best

deterrent; when players get suspended, then the team is hurt. When I played at Navy, I do not remember spearing and launching with the helmet, but within the last eight years that has changed. I think it's time to stop. You can still play aggressively, but my job, when I played, was to get the player on the ground. I can't remember using my helmet intentionally; I think it has something to do with showboating.

BR: Do you think it has something to do with TV?

BM: I think it's a part of it. Players like to prance around after big hits on defenseless receivers, but what's the big deal? The league is trying to stop that, but that doesn't have to ruin the game.

BR: What is the general feeling of referees around the NFL about the crackdown?

BM: Well, I was talking to Scott about it the other day, and he agrees, but he also agrees you can't go crazy about throwing flags just because there is an emphasis on it. You just have to be more aware about a player using a helmet as a weapon, but I was looking for it anyway. When I saw it,

I called it; we just have seen more attempts about it recently.

BR: If you were still a referee, would this rule affect the way you call the game?

BM: Well, I don't think it would affect me as much as other officials, but you still have to be more aware of players' attempting to injure others with the helmet. If I wasn't sure, I would call it now because there is an emphasis on it. It's my boss telling me what he wants; if there is any doubt, call it.

BR: What do you recall to be the biggest hit you saw during your time in the league, and today, with the new crackdown, would you call it a penalty?

BM: It was very interesting. I was doing a Jets game in New York. There was a Jet named Dennis Byrd who was paralyzed in the game. It happened this way: there were two Jet D-ends coming at the quarterback, and they collided, helmet-to-helmet. Byrd left the game paralyzed below the neck, and I was five feet from it. He was told he would never walk again, but he does now. Of course, it would not be called a flag now, but I have flagged helmet-to-helmet hits plenty of times. In the Eagles-Colts game (Nov. 7), there was a bit of unnecessary flagging, but now players are being diagnosed with concussions, so throw the flag a little more often.

BR: Is there anything else you want us to take out of the crackdown?

BM: One other thing: Mike Ditka has called upon the former players to set aside money to help players who were permanently injured. Also, rules do change, but most changes had to do with increasing player safety.

For *The Bell Ringer* editors' own takes on the helmet to helmet issue, refer to the last issue.

MBA Swim Team routs the competition

Big Red gains fourth consecutive regional title

By Lucas Littlejohn
Staff Swimmer

On the blue-skied afternoon of Friday, January 28th, the MBA swim team, led by senior captains Jarvis Werkhaven, Chase Lovelace, and Gage Baxter, travelled to the Centennial Sportsplex to dominate the MTHSSA Middle Tennessee Regional Swim Meet for the fourth year in a row.

The natatorium was nearly packed by noon because of the scores of competing swimmers and parents. The rival teams came from local schools Ensworth, USN, Ravenwood, Brentwood High, Father Ryan, Hume-Fogg, Overton, Franklin High, and the homeschool swimmers (called the "MTHEA Makos").

None of these teams was a match this year for the depth and quality of the Big Red swimmers. Both the year-round and the non-year-round swimmers scored big points.

MBA gained the lead with freshman Jonathan Barringer's first-place finish in diving the night before and never looked back.

On Friday the meet started out with a bang for the Big Red, with the 200 Medley Relay team of Lovelace, Werkhaven, Maclin Davis, and Andrew Dobbs annihilating the other teams in the event by over four seconds.

The dominance continued throughout the meet, and the Big Red almost doubled the score of second-place Ravenwood, 498-271, with MBA winning 8 of the 12 events and qualifying 20 swimmers to defend last year's title at the state meet.

The state meet extends over two days and will take place in Knoxville at the UT pool on February 11th and 12th. Though there will be a multitude of strong, rival swimmers at the upcoming meet, another state championship is a very attainable goal for the Big Red.



Jarvis' secret to swimming success is never taking off his goggles. It makes all the difference. Photo courtesy of Facebook.com

Evening with Preds proves priceless

Scott Dalton and Jamie Joyce get a taste of the life of a professional sports reporter

By Scott Dalton
Student Reporter

On Tuesday, January 11, Jamie Joyce and I (both students at Montgomery Bell Academy) got to step into the shoes of professional members of the press for a night to experience everything the media does on a Predators game night. The Predators were in the midst of a 5-game winning streak after emerging undefeated in their California campaign. Both the win streak and the previously successful California tour added emotion and hype to what would have been viewed in the standings as an evenly matched game.

We started off the night by eating dinner in the media room alongside some other notable press members and Predators staff. The meal was both delicious as well as exciting, as we met some extremely nice people who engaged us in conversation. As we left the media room, we were greeted by a cheery Patric Hornqvist, who was chasing a soccer ball that had escaped from his grasp during the team's pre-game warm up. We then proceeded to grab a few media packets full of stats and other notables and continued on our way.

As we made our way up to the press box, we were given a brief tour of



The Nashville Predators have a strong Student Reporter program, allowing two MBA students each year to visit and shadow real reporters at a game.

the down-stairs portion of the Bridgestone Arena, featuring stage equipment, zambonis, and a rehearsal hall. Making our way up to the elevator, we saw a rowdy group of Minnesota players kicking the soccer ball and carrying on.

When we made it up to the press box, we were both excited to see our names taped to the desks where we would be watching the game.

Watching the actual warm up was a very rare treat because usually I am not able to get to the games that early, so it was fun to see how the players warm up. Shortly afterward, the game began.

With such an even matchup, it was difficult to predict who would come out victorious that night. However, after a few short minutes, it could have been easily determined that the game was being dominated

by the Predators. Their work paid off in the first period with a goal by David Legwand as a result of a perfect centering pass from Marek Svatos. The Wild came back fairly quickly with a goal, and the period ended at 1 to 1.

During the 1st intermission, Jamie and I walked around the stadium, taking in the crowd and the talk about what the rest of the game would hold for the Predators. We grabbed some snacks and headed back up to the press box for the start of the 2nd period.

The second period began with a goal by Joel Ward a little over a minute in. After 19 more minutes of hard fought hockey, the score remained 2-1 in favor of the Preds.

The 2nd intermission was much of the same, as we watched some entertaining, on-ice tire races and talked with some fans about the game. When we returned to our seats, we were excited at the prospect of a win.

The third period could be summarized by the superb play of Nick Spaling. Notching two goals, one of which was unassisted, Spaling made his way to being one of the three stars of the game. A final goal by Marcel Goc concluded the game, with an overwhelming 5-1 Predators win.

Following the game was the post-game press conference, which was very light and filled with good remarks about the team and the great play of certain individuals. A win seems to make everyone happier.

The game was a great one to see, and I was extremely happy to be there to witness it!

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CCSC is also connected to MBA through former Varsity Rifle Coach, Leo Lujan, who is the Rifle Program Director at CCSC. In his 9 year tenure he has shown vast knowledge of shooting and has also brought along fantastic staff members who are past MBA students and rifle athletes. Due to Leo's hard work and dedication he has helped CCSC develop one of the top camp rifle programs in the country.

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MBA Ultimate becomes Tennessee team to beat

MBA's Los Banditos defeat USN's Brutal Grassburn to claim the #1 ranking in the State

By Nick Kohler
Staff Writer

Two years ago, MBA's Ultimate Frisbee team brought home the only athletic state championship for the Big Red. Although that stellar senior class has come and gone, the 2011 seniors have successfully carried the high expectations left by the state champions for the last two years.

Led by current MBA student Will Baker... no, he didn't lead the team... the 2010 Ultimate team took second at the state championship, losing to perennial powerhouse and nationally ranked USN. USN, led by the ginger Jerry, talked a big game coming into 2011, losing only one starter.

In the first tournament of the season, Callaween, MBA took second again, losing once again to USN in a very close match. Mitchell Shope yelled at their coach. Jack Hallemann almost ripped USN's Shaw apart. USN's continuous foul and travel calls allowed them to steal an almost certain victory from the Big Red.

For the next three months of practice, the Big Red players set their sights on beating the USN Brutal Grassburn. With coaching help from legend Craig Stewart, robot Roderick Russ, and Cracker Barrel frequenter Coach G, the MBA team perfected a devastating zone defense designed to take away the deep pass on which USN so heavily relies.

MBA finally got another shot for vindication on January 29th, at the MBA One Day Round Robin. After easily handling Independence and eking out a too-close-for-comfort victory against Blackman, MBA crushed Brentwood and the MBA JV and faced USN for the championship.

As at Callaween, MBA jumped out to a 2-0 lead as a result of DEVASTATING DEFENSE by Tom Markham, Warren Smith, and Walton Macey. Will Baker and Matthew Johnson continued their somewhat oddly intimate connection with each other by connecting on multiple fire cuts for scores, and all of a sudden MBA was leading 4-1 and then 6-3.

Trying to close out the half, MBA gave up 2 straight scores to USN and was barely holding on when Mitchell Shope hit Walton Macey for the final score of the half.

Foregoing the time limit, the game became a race to 13. The two teams traded points and soon it was 10-8. USN tried to rally the troops with an ear-piercing "BRUTAL BRUTAL BRUTAL" cheer, but that only provoked the Big Red to beat them into a pulp. With more devastating D and a gift from the out-of-bounds gods, MBA went up 12-9, and then Cody Fisher hit Nick Kohler on a fast break to seal the deal.

The victory was the current seniors' first against USN and made MBA the team to beat in Tennessee. The Big Red travel to Chattanooga for the Polar Bear tournament and then wait a few months for state. Ultimate is fun. Roll Red.



Mitchell Shope races to catch up after pulling the disc, while Nick, Andrew, and Drew run down the field to set up the defense. Photo courtesy of Bill Gaglione.



Tom Markham makes an athletic grab in front of USN defender Ryan DelCasino. Photo courtesy of Parrish Preston.



Nick Kohler sticks to fundamentals by catching with both hands. Photo courtesy of Parrish Preston.



Matthew Johnson gets up to catch the flying frisbee on MBA's own lower field. MBA hosted a round robin event two weeks ago.



Ultimate is quickly gaining a national presence. MBA is planning on competing in High School Easterns, one of the two most competitive championships in the nation.

A gentleman goes to the Winter Formal

By Scott Dalton
Staff Social Advisor

It's no secret that being in high school will allow you to be exposed to some extremely interesting situations. Said situations are mostly strange and weird because we all have this fantastical illusion that we have actually found some sense of maturity in our first 18 years of age.

Sure, you may be an adult in the eyes of the law, but simply because you can get into a night club and hang out with some washed-up, 28-year-old drug dealers doesn't mean that you are exempt from feeling childish and stupid around the opposite sex (I know you just scanned this article and saw the word "sex" so you decided to read it. You can't fool me with your deceptive reading lies). Oh, and for the guy who just read this and disagreed with me, either out loud to a group of guys (because your pack mentality is raging right now) or to yourself in your head, go ahead and put this one down because it's not for you.

That's right, folks, the highlight or bane of your high school existence can often come down to how you do with the opposite sex, and, since we have been so fortunate as to have so many winter formals running rampant in the last month, I have decided to enlighten you so when Prom comes around, you'll be a pro. We're going to sit down and have a chat about the Sadie Hawkins dance.

The Sadie Hawkins dance (or more commonly known as "Winter Formal" around these parts of the distinguished West Nashville area) is one in which the girls will obviously be asking the guys to a dance. There are many ways in which you can make one of these formals a pleasurable experience (one for which you might laminate a picture or two into your baby book) or one which you can royally screw up. Having experienced Winter Formal in this past week or so, I decided it would be beneficial to give a few tips and pointers for the gentleman in the corner who doesn't quite know what to do when prom rolls around. Let's take a walk down Helen Reddy Lane, and discuss the do's and do not's of the Sadie Hawkins Dance.



Chris Meluch knows when to keep his mouth shut (lesson 4) and give his date a little space.

Lesson 1: Forget Pride

Lesson 1: Swallow your pride big guy, this isn't your dance. Yes, it is no secret that women are from Venus and men are from Mars, so don't make yourself look like an idiot by trying to take control of the plans for a formal that isn't even yours. Don't get me wrong, I want to have my after-party at laser tag just as much as the next guy, but I'm not going to go around spoiling our candle-lit garden tour if that's what my date wants to do.

Lesson 2: Relax

Lesson 2: Relax, your date's Dad probably won't show up with a shotgun in his hand at the door tonight. Be excited! You are now not one of those guys who only wants "one thing" (still trying to figure out what exactly that is...that's a joke). For tonight only, Daddy's little girl has branched out on her own to pick out a nice and sweet boy to take to a formal. You've got to be a perfect guy because let's be honest, she is her Dad's daughter and he raised her to know good from bad.



Lesson 3: Don't Relax (...too much)

Lesson 3: Don't relax too much. You're not that great. Just because you got asked out by someone doesn't mean you should be all cocky and whatnot. Take heed, dressing in spandex and a tuxedo t-shirt tonight is not a good idea. Save that for homecoming, bud. Dress respectfully because girls apparently think that is "cute." Dressing appropriately might also win you more favor with the man who isn't currently holding a shotgun, because you can bet your tuxedo t-shirt that tomorrow night that thing will be locked and loaded as soon as he sees your headlights turn onto his street.

Lesson 4: Shut yo' mouth

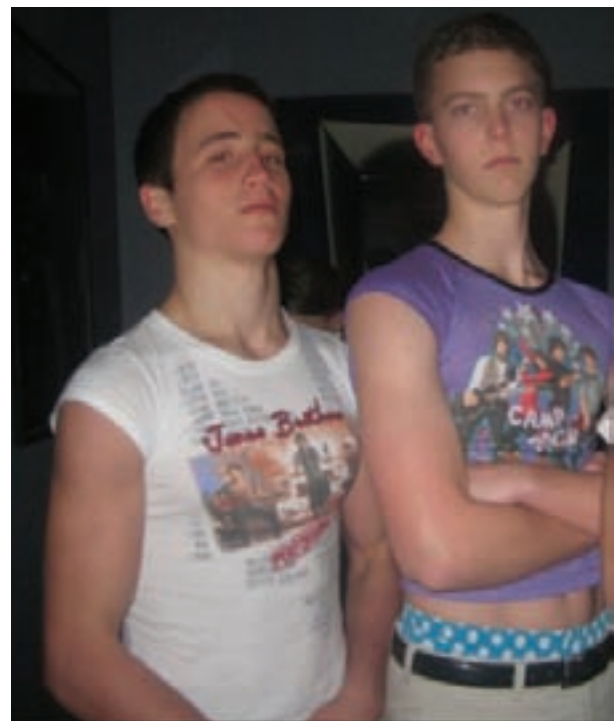
Lesson 4: Shut your mouth and respect the bejeezus out of your date. Yes, tonight, when you meet up with your group, you will want to put a bullet in your head due to the excessive cloud of perfume that has somehow magically green-housed on the lawn you're standing on before taking pictures. And, yes, you will wish you had brought ear plugs because "oh my gosh, you look so pretty tonight" does get a little bit old after the 12th time...in the last 3 seconds. Regardless, give her a little space to do what she wants. After all, she probably does look really pretty, and you are probably pretty happy that you're not sitting home tonight watching free movies On-Demand because you blew all of your money ordering pizza tonight.

Lesson 5: Coordinate

Lesson 5: Make a plan with the guys in your crew to convene in a designated location when you arrive. Let's be honest, your date doesn't care that much about you besides whether you look good or not tonight. So, I'll bet you 20 bucks that the first thing she does when you arrive for pictures is half-trip over her dress running to see all of her friends, subsequently leaving you to park the car. When you step out of the car, go find other males, because at this point every female in your group will be modeling her dress and giggling about some inside joke to each other that is as simple as when someone said "peanut butter" one time.

Lesson 6: Follow #1-5

John Mark Bellet and Gray Jones followed rule 1 - they swallowed their pride enough even to wear those adorable Jonas t-shirts. Both gentlemen are well on their way to becoming Stud McMuffins.



Left: Mark Lowe and Jack Benton know how to relax and just have fun with it. I mean, it's sophomore year, y'all! No regrets!



Warren Delano Smith IV and John Windham Rodgers Wyse are always on their game. Wyse's sweater-no-coat look qualifies as dressing "cute."



Bradshaw, Meluch, and Cauble clearly know how to coordinate so that they can bro out at the dance.

Brethren, we are forever bound by the ways in which we adhere to these simple lessons of conduct. Sure, you can disregard everything I have said here, but don't come crying to me when you have a shotgun wound in your calf on prom night. Follow these lessons, my dear friends, and you will be one step closer to being a total Stud McMuffin (with cheese).